



**THE HON JULIA GILLARD MP
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER**

Minister for Education
Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
Minister for Social Inclusion

SHARON GRIERSON MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

MEDIA RELEASE

2 February 2009

\$2.27 million for Wetlands Education Facility

The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, and Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson today announced \$2.27 million in funding for a joint project between Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia, Hunter Central Coast Region Office 5 and the Catholic Schools Office.

The funding is provided under the *Local Schools Working Together Program* (LSWT) which encourages government, Catholic and independent schools to work together to develop shared educational facilities.

“This project will involve the construction of a purpose designed education facility at the Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia,” Ms Grierson said.

“It is great to be able to announce this funding on World Wetlands Day.”

“It is a wonderful collaborative effort and the three organisations are to be commended on the vision and leadership they have shown in developing this proposal.”

“The project will showcase the Hunter Wetlands – an internationally recognised Ramsar wetlands - and provide great educational opportunities to students across the entire Hunter region by increasing the capacity for school visits.”

This is one of 15 successful projects announced today. The LSWT project is part of the Rudd Government’s Education Revolution. It will provide \$62.5 million over two funding rounds towards the development of approximately 25 shared educational facilities.

The partnership also extends to third parties such as local councils or businesses where projects may feature broader community benefit.

For details of successful Round One projects, information on the program or how to apply for Round Two funding, visit www.localschoolsworkingtogether.deewr.gov.au

Round Two, opens on 1 April 2009 and closes at midnight on 22 May 2009.